

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D. C.

ORDER NO. 1848

IN THE MATTER OF:

Served May 17, 1978

Application of CONTINENTAL)
LIMOUSINE SERVICE, INC., for)
Temporary Authority to Perform)
Charter Operations Between Points)
in the Metropolitan District)

Case No. AP-78-17

By application filed May 2, 1978, Continental Limousine Service, Inc. (Continental), seeks temporary authority to transport passengers, in charter operations, over irregular routes, between points within the Metropolitan District, restricted to vehicles with a seating capacity of fifteen (15) passengers or less, including the driver, and further restricted to the transportation of passengers who are: (1) officially invited foreign guests of the United States Government, International Communication Agency, (2) escorts and escort interpreters, or (3) supervisory personnel from the Visitors' Program Service of Meridian House International (Meridian), the Institute of International Education, or the African American Institute.

Continental proposes to provide service in one or more of three late-model vans. Its basic hourly rate would be \$15 per vehicle and transfer rates of \$35 or \$45 per vehicle are proposed between certain points including Washington National Airport and Dulles International Airport. All rates, however, are subject to a 15 percent "gratuity" surcharge to be paid over to the driver.

In support of the application, Continental asserts that the International Communication Agency has invited a group of foreign businessmen to visit Washington, D. C., commencing May 24, 1978. Meridian has the responsibility to arrange for the transportation of these visitors, and applicant asserts that there is an immediate and urgent need for its service. No indication of support from Meridian House International was submitted.

On May 8, 1978, Executive Limousine Service, Inc. (Executive), filed a protest to the application. Executive is certificated by the Commission to perform charter operations between points in the Metropolitan District subject to certain restrictions not here pertinent. Executive

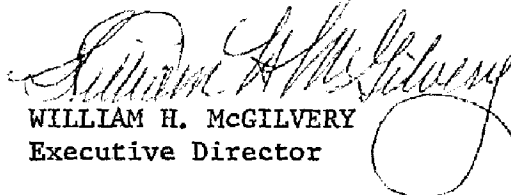
operates several vehicles comparable to those of Continental and, under its published tariff, Executive quotes an hourly rate of \$17 per vehicle. Executive asserts that it is experienced in providing this type of service and that it has served Meridian in the past although Beltway Limousine Service, Inc. (Beltway), now handles that account.

On May 10, 1978, Beltway filed a protest asserting that it has been providing the service for which authority is sought pursuant to authority granted by this Commission. Beltway contends that it can fully meet such service requirements with its present fleet.

Title II, Article XII, Section 4(d)(3) of the Compact provides that the Commission may, in its discretion, grant temporary authority where there is an immediate and urgent need for service and where there exists no carrier service capable of meeting such need. Typically a need for service is evidenced by some expression of support from the person wishing to use the service. Here, we have only an unsupported assertion of need from the applicant. In any event, both Beltway and Executive hold pertinent authority, operate suitable equipment, and stand ready willing and able to meet such need as may exist. The conclusion that Continental has failed to make the required statutory showing is compelled. Under these circumstances, consideration of the outstanding finding of unfitness against applicant would serve no purpose.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the above-referenced application of Continental Limousine Service, Inc., is hereby denied.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:


WILLIAM H. MCGILVERY
Executive Director